

[54] **HAND-MANIPULATED ELECTRONIC CAMERA TETHERED TO A PERSONAL COMPUTER**

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[57] ABSTRACT

A portable, electronic camera is connectable to a computer for capturing an image and providing the captured image to the computer for storage therewith. The camera ergonomically acts like an independent, self-functioning peripheral device while in actuality depending on instructions from the computer. The camera is remotely linked to the computer, e.g., by a cable, thereby allowing mobility of the camera independent of the computer. The camera includes an electronic image sensor, and circuit for driving the sensor to generate an image signal that is applied to the computer through the remote link. The readiness of the computer to accept an image signal is manifested by operative device in the camera, which condition the camera for image capture in response to a status signal from the computer transmitted through the remote link. In one embodiment, a capture switch is positioned on or with the camera for user engagement, whereby the operative device inhibits actuation of the capture switch until receipt of the status signal. In another embodiment, the operative device energizes an exposure readiness indicator when the status signal is received.

21 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

